

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 106222 TOSEC 040153
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 /034 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER:BB
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JTRATTNER
S/S - MR. GAMBLE
-----110104Z 125545 /15
P 102324Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 106222 TOSEC 040153

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS, BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTARY, TUESDAY, MAY 10

NO. 18

NATO
ROD MACLEISH, CBS-TV MORNING NEWS

TODAY THE GLITTER IS OFF PRESIDENT CARTER'S EUROPEAN TRIP. THE WEEKEND'S GRAND ECONOMIC DESIGNS HAVE GIVEN WAY TO THE NITTY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DIPLOMACY IN GENEVA YESTERDAY AND THE GRITTY OF MILITARY POLICY HERE IN LONDON THIS MORNING. MR. CARTER IS SPENDING HIS LAST DAY HERE AT THE SPRING MEETING OF NATO, THE FOURTEEN-MEMBER MILITARY ALLIANCE WHICH IS PROBABLY INCAPABLE OF PERFORMING ITS BASIC FUNCTION, DEFENDING WESTERN EUROPE FROM A SOVIET MILITARY ATTACK WITH CONVENTIONAL FORCES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 106222 TOSEC 040153

FEW PEOPLE, HERE OR IN WASHINGTON, THINK THAT SUCH AN ATTACK IS IMMINENT. BUT MILITARY ALLIANCES ARE THE CASSANDRAS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. THEY EXIST ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE WORST MAY HAPPEN. FOR A DECADE THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS VERSION OF NATO - THE WARSAW PACT - HAVE REEQUIPPED THEIR FORCES WITH AN ARSENAL OF WEAPONS THAT IS AS IMPRESSIVE IN

ITS NUMBERS AS IT IS STUNNING IN ITS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY. NATO, BY CONTRAST, HAS NO UNIFORMITY AMONG ITS VARIOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS, ITS FORCES ARE UNDERSTAFFED, AND MANY OF ITS MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, DESPITE THEIR INDUSTRIAL SUPERIORITY OVER THE COMMUNIST BLOC, ARE POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY UNSTABLE.

WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN IF A SOVIET ATTACK CAME IS THAT NATO WOULD HAVE TO FALL BACK ON U.S. NUCLEAR WARHEADS STORED HERE IN EUROPE AT THE RISK OF SETTING OFF A GLOBAL WAR. TO REPAIR ALL OF THIS, PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE NATO MEETING MUST REDRESS SUCH EUROPEAN GRIEVANCES AS AMERICA'S HUGE EDGE IN WEAPONS SALES TO ITS ALLIES; THEY MUST PONDER OTHER PEOPLES' DEFENSE BUDGETS AND REORDER COMMAND STRUCTURES. THERE'S NOT MUCH GLAMOR IN THAT, AND VERY LITTLE STATESMANSHIP.

YET IN THE NITTY-GRITTY OF NATO PROBLEM-SOLVING, FUTURE NIGHTMARES CAN BE AVOIDED IF CASSANDRA'S WORSE COMES TO WORST.

ARMS SALES AND TRANSFERS
MARVIN KALB, CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE REPORT

PRESIDENT CARTER RETURNS TO WASHINGTON TODAY FROM HIS FIRST OVERSEAS TRIP. HE WILL FIND A MEMORANDUM ON HIS DESK CONCERNING A NEW AMERICAN POLICY ON THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF AMERICAN ARMS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. HIS FINAL DECISION, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 106222 TOSEC 040153

EXPECTED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IS CERTAIN TO CREATE CONTROVERSY.

WHEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CAME TO POWER LAST JANUARY IT PROCLAIMED IN LOUD AND CLEAR TERMS THAT IT WAS REALLY SICK AND TIRED OF THE UNITED STATES BEING THE MAJOR ARMS MERCHANT OF THE WORLD. RATHER THAN STANDING FOR ITS OLD IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES, THE UNITED STATES WAS PEDDLING ARMS, IT SEEMED, WITHOUT DISCRETION OR CONCERN. SO PRESIDENT CARTER ORDERED HIS EXPANDING BUREAUCRACY TO COME UP WITH A NEW POLICY CONSISTENT, HE SAID, WITH AMERICAN INTERESTS AND IDEALS. LIKE ALL DRAFTS FOR A NEW POLICY, THIS ONE HAD TO GO THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY TO BE CHECKED OFF BY THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE. THAT WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT'S GOING TO BE A LEAST-COMMON-DENOMINATOR POLICY, BUT THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE. THE FINAL DRAFT HAS NOW BEEN PLACED ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESK FOR HIS CONSIDERATION ON HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE TODAY. HIS FINAL DECISION MAY BE MADE LATER THIS WEEK OR EARLY NEXT. IT IS BOUND TO BE CONTROVERSIAL.

THE DRAFT DIVIDES THE WORLD INTO TWO LARGE CATEGORIES: ONE

COMPOSED OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION COUNTRIES, PLUS JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND; THE OTHER COMPOSED OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING SUCH LARGE CONSUMERS OF AMERICAN MILITARY WEAPONS AS IRAN, ISRAEL AND SOUTH KOREA. THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE PRIVILEGED CATEGORY WILL BE ABLE TO BUY THE MOST MODERN AMERICAN WEAPONS, CO-PRODUCE SOME OF THEM AND EVEN BE FREE - UP TO A CERTAIN POINT - TO TRANSFER OR SELL THOSE WEAPONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE BROADER CATEGORY ARE NOT SO PRIVILEGED, THOUGH ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS THEY MAY STILL BE ABLE TO BUY HIGH-TECHNOLOGY WEAPONS, BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO CO-PRODUCE THEM OR SELL THEM TO OTHER COUNTRIES WITHOUT SPECIFIC AMERICAN APPROVAL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 106222 TOSEC 040153

OF THOSE COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE NEW POLICY, ISRAEL APPEARS TO BE THE MOST CONCERNED - THOUGH IRAN AND SOUTH KOREA WILL CERTAINLY NOT BE FAR BEHIND. ON CAPITOL HILL THERE ARE CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS WHO BELIEVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS GETTING READY TO SQUEEZE ISRAEL INTO ACCEPTING TERMS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT BY WITHHOLDING BENEFITS AND ARMS THAT ISRAEL FEELS SHE REQUIRES. SENS. HUMPHREY AND CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, HAVE WRITTEN A COMPLICATED AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN AID BILL THAT WOULD HELP ISRAEL KEEP SOME OF THE BENEFITS THAT MAY SOON BE DENIED HER, SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, ASSURANCES ON JOINT PROJECTS THAT WOULD IN THE FUTURE MAKE HER LESS DEPENDENT ON BUYING AMERICAN MILITARY HARDWARE. THERE ARE FORCES WITHIN THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS THAT WOULD LIKE TO KEEP TIGHT CONTROLS OVER ISRAEL'S MILITARY MACHINE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RESTRICTING ITS MILITARY POTENCY. IF THEY ARE TO RAISE OBJECTIONS TO THE HUMPHREY-CASE AMENDMENT, THEY HAVE THEIR OPPORTUNITY THIS COMING THURSDAY WHEN THE ENTIRE FOREIGN AID BILL IS GOING TO BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE.

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, IN TRYING TO CALM DOWN CERTAIN SENATORS, HAVE SAID THAT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD SUPPLYING ARMS TO ISRAEL HAD NOT CHANGED AND WILL NOT CHANGE DESPITE THE NEW GUIDELINES. BUT THESE VERY SAME SENATORS - AND SOME DIPLOMATS AND MANY OBSERVERS - WONDER WHAT PURPOSE IS BEING SERVED BY DIVIDING UP THE WORLD, AND THEN TELLING THOSE WHO ARE NOT PRIVILEGED BY THIS DIVISION THAT NOTHING REALLY HAS CHANGED. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC, ALLIANCE, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTRATTNER:BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1289
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770573/aaaaclek.tel
Line Count: 168
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7ff4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2579168
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COMMENTARY, TUESDAY, MAY 10 NO. 18 NATO
TAGS: SOPN, US, XG, NATO, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7ff4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009